

AQUARIST

DEFINITION

To perform specialized tasks involved in the collection and management of aquatic exhibits at the Chula Vista Nature Center; participate in the development and design of new exhibits; and to perform other related duties as assigned.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general supervision from Director of the Nature Center.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS – Functions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Oversee the collection and management of aquatic exhibits at the Chula Vista Nature Center including the aquaria maintenance, set up, glass cleaning, specimen collection, transportation and acquisition of animals.

Determine specimens needed and identify appropriate sources for acquisition; research regulations and obtain permits; introduce specimens to exhibits.

Prepare food and feed aquatic animals according to schedule and appropriate dietary/nutritional needs.

Provide tank maintenance and operation involving inspection and maintenance of equipment; observe, assess, and record equipment function and perform scheduled and essential maintenance; troubleshoot, repair and replace equipment as needed.

Collect and compare water samples to color-coded chart for acid analysis; monitor thermometers to ascertain water temperature; adjust thermostat and add chemicals to water to maintain specified water conditions.

Assist in the development, design and management of new Nature Center Exhibits.

Maintain exhibit aesthetics; observe and assess exhibits; remove unwanted material and maintain substratum and aquascape; maintain viewing surface; add or remove specimens; maintain proper lighting.

Observes fish to detect disease and injuries; treat according to instructions; administer medical attention and chemicals to animals and exhibits.

Train and direct the work of all volunteers working with aquaria.

Debar sea rays; perform post-mortem of dead animals; supervise feedings.

Compile and maintain an exhibit species list; maintain logs and other exhibit related documents, write simple reports.

Performs related duties as assigned .

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Aquaria design and management, marine pharmacology, vertebrate and invertebrate husbandry.

Specimen habitat, space requirements and compatibility.

Marine chemistry, abalone Mari culture, and ichthyology.

Public relations.

Volunteer supervision, training, direction and management.

Applicable laws, codes, ordinances and regulations.

English usage, spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Computer equipment and software applications related to assignment.

Ability to:

Identify diseased or distressed animals.

Operate computer equipment and software applications related to assignment.

Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Work with various cultural and ethnic groups in a tactful and effective manner.

Experience and Training

Any combination of education and/or experience and training that would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

Experience:

Three years of responsible experience in the collection of fish and invertebrates.

Training:

Equivalent to the completion of the twelfth grade preferably supplemented by course work in animal care or a related field.

License or Certificate

Possession of a valid California driver's license.

Possession of a valid Scientific Collector's Permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Game.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

On a continuous basis walk, stand, bend, crouch or stoop, sit for long periods of time to monitor animals; must be able to manipulate, operate, lift and carry objects, tools, and other maintenance materials or equipment for aquaria exhibit inspection, testing, and maintenance; make repetitive hand and body motions; twist and reach below and above shoulder. Communicate over a telephone and hear communications via radio, telephone or in person; respond to inquiries; use a computer keyboard; write simple and complex reports; See in the normal vision range with or without correction; hear in the normal range with or without correction.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Work is performed both indoors and outdoors with exposure to wet, cold, windy, hot and/or humid conditions when performing duties outdoors. Indoor work is generally in a carpeted and air-conditioned office environment with fluorescent lighting and moderate noise level.

5/04